

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 066801

EXDIS MILITARY ADDEE HANDLE SPECAT EXCLUSIVE

REF: CANBERRA 1839

FOLLOWING SENT ACTION TO SECSTATE INFO WELLINGTON MARCH 25,
1975 FROM CANBERRA REPEATED TO YOU:

QUOTE C O N F I D E N T I A L CANBERRA 183

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EXDIS

DEPT PLS PASS INFO CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLADAND SECDEF WASHDC

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: ANZUS, MNUC, PARM, NZ

SUBJ: SOUTH PACIFIC NUCLEAR FREE ZONE (SPNFZ)

REF: A) CANBERRA 1637; B) WELLINGTON 720

1. ACCORDING TO SECRETARY FOREIGN AFFAIRS RENOUF, WHITLAM AND
ROWLING DISCUSSED SPNFZ AT SOME LENGTH DURING CANBERRA
MEETINGS MARCH 24. IN ORDER TO DEFUSE TOPIC, WHITLAM MADE LENGTHY
PRESENTATION ON IMPORTANCE OF STRATEGIC ALLIANCE WITH U.S.,
EMPHASIZING THAT AFTER HARD WORK WITHIN LABOR PARTY HE HAD MANAGED
TO CONFIRM CONTINUING PRESENCE OF US DEFENSE FACILITIES IN
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AUSTRALIA. WHITLAM THEN RAISED SPNFZ AND SAID AUSTRALIA DID NOT

WISH TO CREATE DIFFICULTIES OR FRICTIONS WITH U.S.

2. ROWLING THEN REFERRED TO EFFECTIVE JOINT AUSTRALIAN-NEW ZEALAND ACTION IN OPPOSITION TO FRENCH NUCLEAR TESTS AND SAID HE HOPED TWO GOVERNMENTS COULD CONTINUE TO COLLABORATE ON NUCLEAR MATTERS. HE ARGUED IN FAVOR OF SPNFZ FORMULA ALONG LINES RECENTLY DRAFTED BY GNZ (REFTELS). WHITLAM URGED ROWLING NOT RPT NOT TO RAISE THIS MATTER AT JAMAICA COMMONWEALTH MEETING OR IN ANZUS TALKS. WHITLAM SAID THAT IF GNZ PROPOSED SPNFZ RESOLUTION IN UN AUSTRALIA WOULD NOT CO-SPONSOR AND WOULD NOT SPEAK IN FAVOR. HOWEVER, LABOR GOA WOULD VOTE FOR VAGUELY WORDED RESOLUTION SUCH AS THAT WHICH APPLIED TO AFRICA LAST YEAR.

3. ROWLING AGREED THAT GNZ WOULD NOT RAISE ISSUE AT JAMAICA OR WASHINGTON AND WOULD DO SO IN GENERAL TERMS IN NEW YORK.

3. COMMENT: RENOUF WAS DELIGHTED THAT DEPARTMENTS FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND DEFENSE HAD PREVAILED UPON WHITLAM TO TAKE FIRM LINE ON THIS ISSUE. HE SAID WHITLAM HAD SPOKEN MOST FORCEFULLY ABOUT IMPORTANCE OF U.S. ALLIANCE AND OF NOT MAKING DIFFICULTIES FOR U.S. RENOUF ADDED THAT CLEAR POSITION TAKEN BY CLEMENTS AND ZURHELLEN HAD BEEN VERY HELPFUL IN STRENGTHENING WHITLAM'S BACK. AUSTRALIAN PRESS OF MARCH 25 REPORTS WITH SOME PROMINENCE THAT WHITLAM REBUFFED ROWLING ON SPNFZ. WE HAD BETTER KEEP AFTER THIS, PERHAPS AT ANZUS TALKS, TO SEE HOW ROWLING'S "VAGUELY WORDED UN RESOLUTION" WILL IN FACT BE WORDED. PERHAPS WITH MORE PRESSURE FROM BOTH US AND GOA HE CAN BE PERSUADED TO GIVE IT UP ALTOGETHER.

HARROP

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